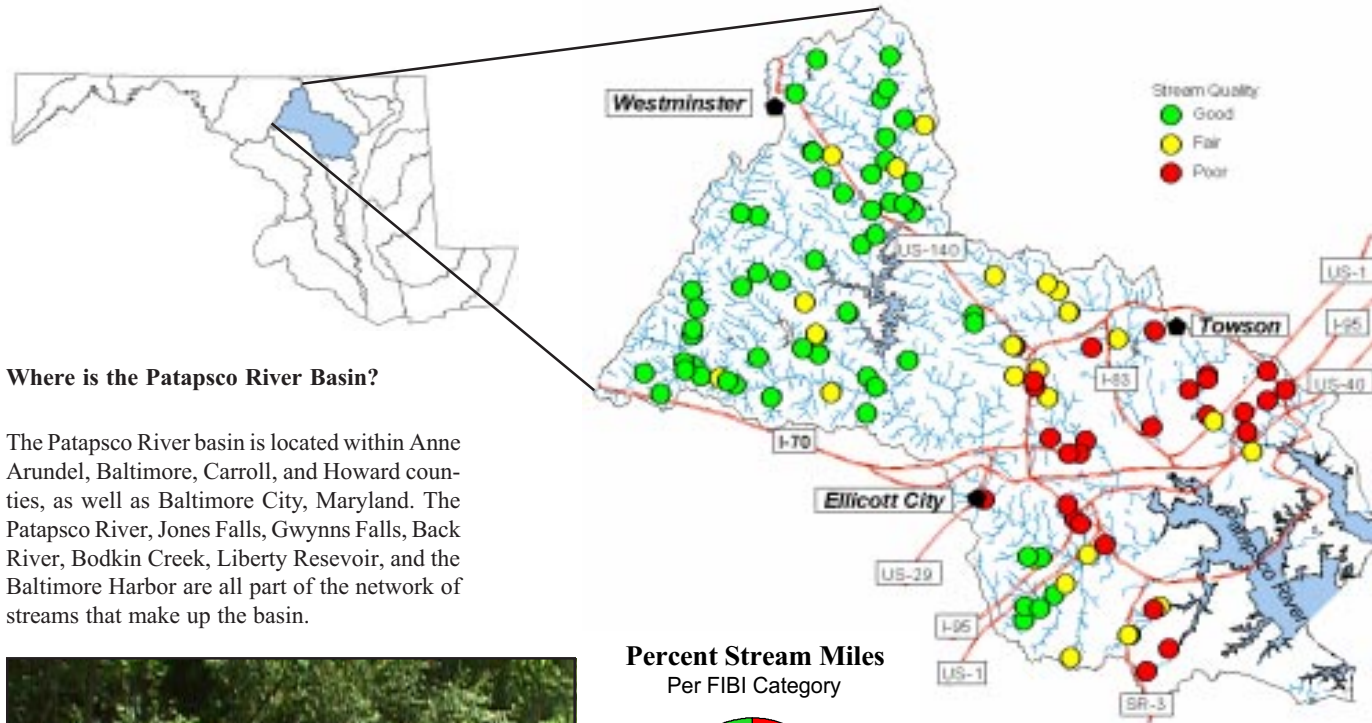




# Patapsco River Basin

## Current Status of Wadeable Streams



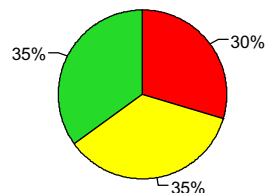
### Where is the Patapsco River Basin?

The Patapsco River basin is located within Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, and Howard counties, as well as Baltimore City, Maryland. The Patapsco River, Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls, Back River, Bodkin Creek, Liberty Reservoir, and the Baltimore Harbor are all part of the network of streams that make up the basin.



Morgan Run, located in Carroll County.

### Percent Stream Miles Per FIBI Category



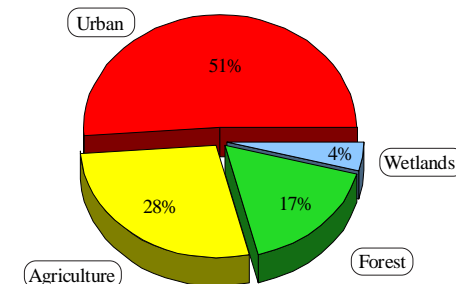
The Fish Index of Biotic Integrity or FIBI is a measurement of stream quality based on fish communities.

### What Lives in Our Streams?\*

Estimated Fish Abundance:	4.5 million
Number of Fish Species:	42
Number of Gamefish Species:	6
Number of Reptile and Amphibian Species:	17
Number of Freshwater Mussel Species:	1

\*Based on Maryland Biological Stream Survey collections in wadeable streams basin-wide during 1996.

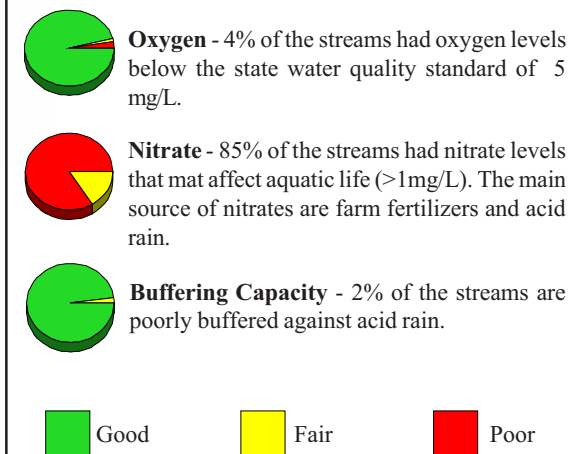
### Land Use in the Basin



Land use in the 680 square miles of the basin is primarily urban. In fact, with 1,737 people per square mile, the Patapsco basin has the highest population density of the 18 basins within the state.



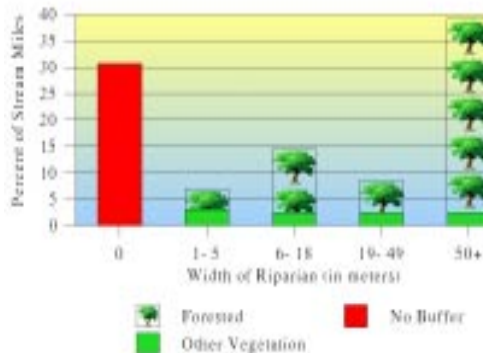
### Water Quality



Good Fair Poor

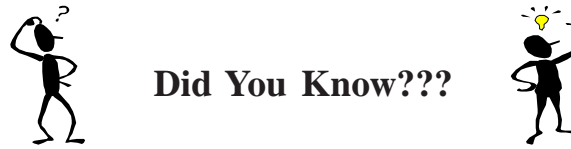
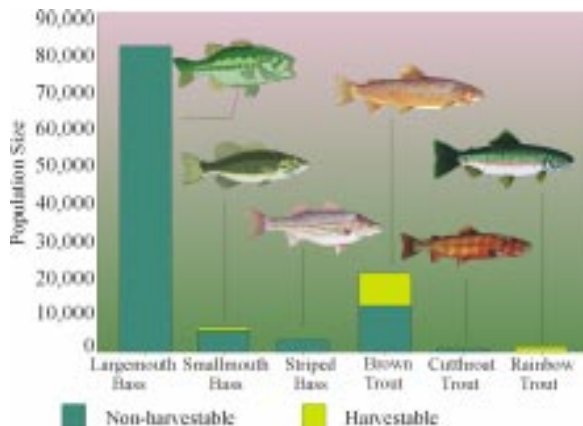
## Riparian Zone

Trees, shrubs, and grasses that border a stream are called the stream's *riparian buffer*. This buffer zone can protect a stream against runoff, provides shade, stabilizes stream banks, and supplies food and shelter for aquatic life. A wide and intact buffer offers more protection than a narrow one. The overall condition of riparian buffers in the Patapsco basin is fair. We can help maintain these buffers by protecting streamside forests and planting trees in disturbed areas.



## Gamefish

There are five gamefish species found in the wadeable streams of the basin. Few of the fish were of harvestable size. It appears that the wadeable tributary streams of the basin serve as a nursery for gamefish.



## Did You Know???

◆ Patapsco Valley State Park currently occupies 13,000 acres.

◆ The Patapsco basin provides facilities that accommodate handicapped citizens. Morgan Run Natural Environment Area provides a handicapped accessible fishing ramp. In the Patapsco Valley State Park, there is an equestrian center designed for special needs.

◆ We may be losing an irreplaceable part of our natural heritage. At present there are many species in the basin that were found at only one percent of the sites sampled, including the comely shiner and introduced goldfish. None are listed as rare or endangered in Maryland, but they may disappear from the Patapsco basin.



*The comely shiner is found in the Patapsco basin.*

## Community Involvement

Want to help? These community groups can show you how!

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
6600 York Road, Suite 100  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
Kathleen Millan (410) 377-6270

Greater Patapsco Community Assoc.  
P.O. Box 31  
Granite, MD 21163  
Kathleen Skullney (410) 465-9116

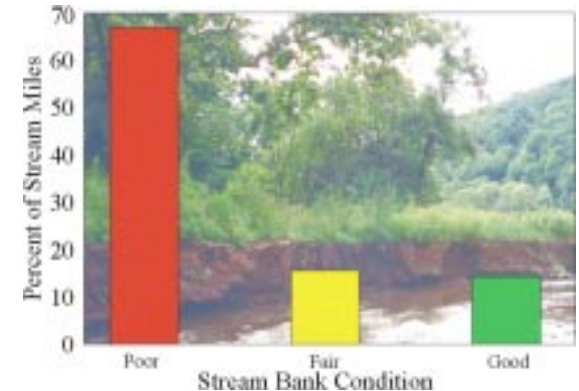
Herring Run Watershed Assoc.  
P.O. Box 5591  
Baltimore, MD 21285-5591  
Lynn Kramer (410) 668-3626

Owings Mills Green Action  
P.O. Box 323  
Owings Mills, MD 21117-0323  
Kim Holcomb (410) 356-5600



## Stream Bank Stability

Eroded, unstable banks reduce habitat quality in streams and contribute to water quality in downstream areas. Stream banks in the Patapsco basin are suffering. As lands within the basin were developed for agriculture and later urbanized, many miles of stream banks became highly eroded. Since streams in the basin flow into the Chesapeake Bay, this bank instability causes an increase in the downstream transport of nutrients and suspended sediments to the Bay.



## Recreation

Popular activities in the basin include fishing, canoeing, camping, and horseback riding. Patapsco Valley State Park, Leakin Park, and Druid Hill Park are just some of the places where these activities are available.



*This man is flyfishing at Morgan Run.*

For more detailed information on streams in the Patapsco River basin and elsewhere in Maryland, contact Ann Smith of DNR/MANTA at (410) 260-8611 or email [asmith@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:asmith@dnr.state.md.us).